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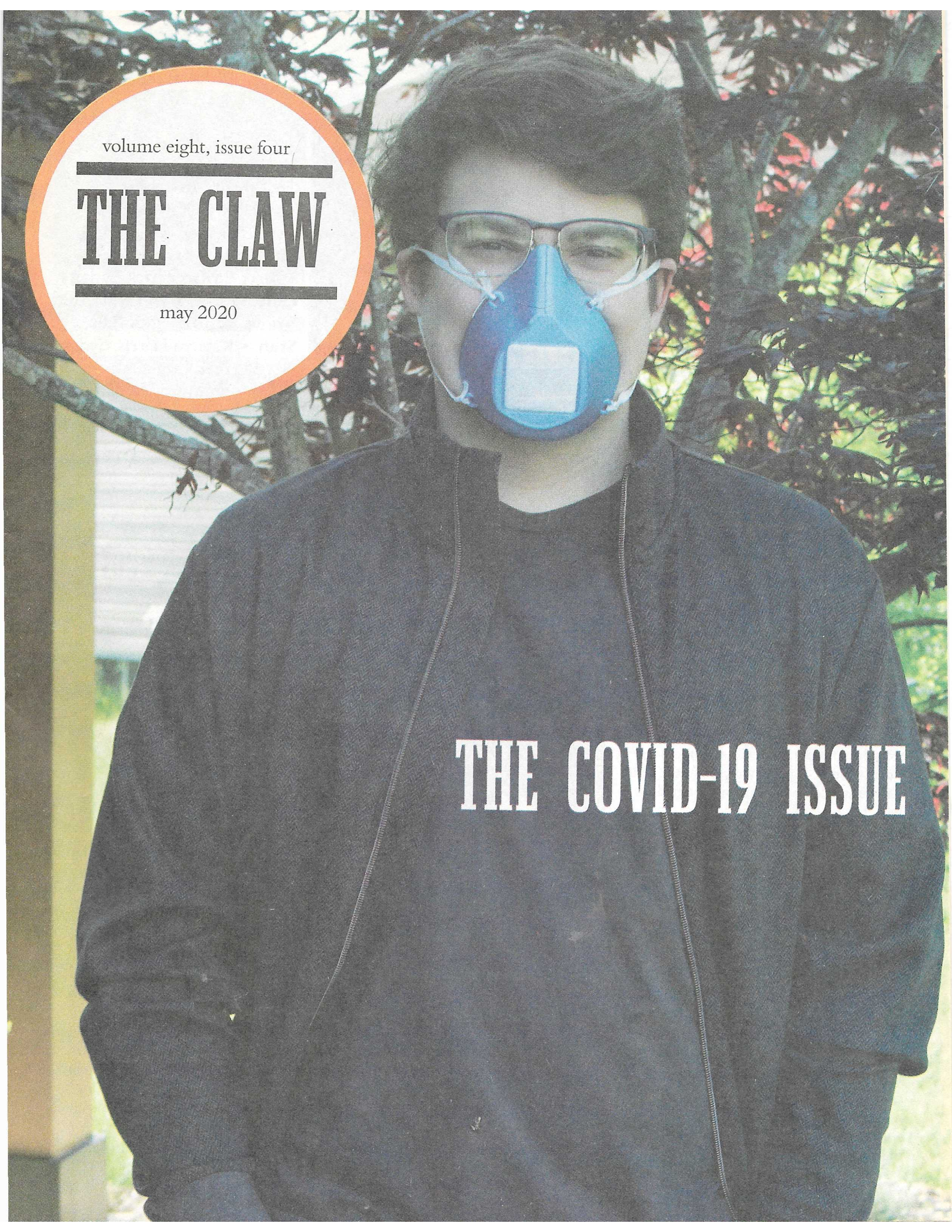

THE COVID-19 ISSUE

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Life Editor • Cassi Reaka
Sports Editor • Jack Barker
Culture Editor • Taylor Meek
Views Editor • Jack Pifer
Staff • Katelyn Harris, Sydney Hershberger, Emily Kloostra, Lauren Johnson and Hannah Thompson
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LETTER FROM THE EDITORS

Jacqueline Glenn
Ryan Stewart

This school year's ending was one that no one expected. In an effort to protect ourselves and others from COVID-19, we are missing out on what feels like everything: prom, graduation, our spring sports seasons. I never would have thought that we would do a pandemic-themed issue, but here we are.

My heart especially goes out to the class of 2020. I write about our heartbreak on page 6. If you know a senior or graduating junior, I implore you to send them an encouraging text.

But despite all the damage that COVID-19 has caused, there is sill some good in the world.

Life Editor Cassi Reaka, for example, has used this time to foster a dog from the Metro East Humane Society. She details her experience on page 4. And in our cover story, on pages 8-9, I write about students and faculty members who have created their own charities to address the needs that the pandemic has created.

Many professional sports have ended their spring seasons outright. The 2020 Olympics, of course, have been postponed, which Staff Writer Hannah Thompson tells about on pages 10 and 11. But despite the lack of traditional TV sports programming, Staff Writer Emily Kloostra gives her recommendations for replacement sports to watch on page 13.

Moving on to our Culture section, my co-editor-in-chief Ryan Stewart reviews the outrageous, meme-inducing Netflix Original Series "Tiger King" on pages 16 and 17. Views Editor Jack Pifer writes about a timely development in the music world, virtual concerts, on page 15.

And lastly, in our views section, we cover many of the political challenges that have arisen from the pandemic. Jump to pages 18 and 19 to read two opposing viewpoints about our government's efforts to contain COVID-19, written by Staff Writer Katelyn Harris and Ryan Stewart.

It's been a year, EHS. I guess we can't enjoy rainbows without a thunderstorm first.

Jacqueline Glenn
Co-Editor-in-Chief

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VIEWS

FRIENDS OF EHS JOURNALISM

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Taqueria Z
Tom Gibbons, Madison County States Attorney
Anonymous—"Freedom of the press is not a license to be stupid."
Anonymous
The Thompson family
The Spudich family
EHS Yearbook
Chris and Pam Farrar
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The Rivera family

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The ultimate goal of The Claw is reporting Life, Sports, Culture and Views stories to the students and faculty of Edwardsville High School. Stories by students outside of Journalism and Yearbook may submit work and be published if that work is exceptional. The Claw is a student-run publication, and the opinions and views featured in this magazine do not necessarily reflect the views of District 7 or any of the staff it employs.

We appreciate letters to the editor, so long as the topics discussed remain school appropriate. These letters may not be any longer than 200 words, and can be sent to letterstotheclaw@gmail.com or brought to room A113 before or after school. We reserve the right to reject any letters for any reason, including inappropriateness, lack of space, etc. We are not required to give an explanation for rejected letters.

STAFFER ($25)

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LIFE

NEW PETS BRING JOY TO QUARANTINE

Cassi Reaka holds her foster dog Franklin, resucued from Lincoln, Mo.
photo by Emily Kloostra

by Cassi Reaka, Life Editor

Although quarantine has taken a toll on the mental heath of millions of people around the world, it has also provided the perfect opportunity to welcome a new pet into the family, something many students have taken advantage of.

The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty for Animals (ASPCA) saw a 70 percent increase in foster rates than at the same time last year according to Matt Bershadker, ASPCA president and CEO. Our local shelter, Metro East Humane Society (MEHS) has placed almost 90 animals in foster homes and has placed 100 animals in their forever homes, according to Christa Winkler, MEHS shelter manager.

Although this increase in adoption and fostering has benefited many shelters, they are also having to deal with an increase in animals.

"An issue that shelters currently find themselves facing is an increase in the number of people surrendering their animals as people are left without financial means, as well as strays being turned into animal controls that need placement," Winkler said.

Senior Anna Bruss's family recently adopted a dog from a family who felt she would do better in a different home.

"My family has been contemplating getting a second dog for years, but we've just been so busy with school and work," Bruss said. "With the quarantine and the fact that I'm going to be going off to college next semester and my sister will be heading out to college in the next few years, we decided that it was finally time."

Senior Ella Cooper and her family also adopted a new puppy during quarantine.

"We decided to adopt a puppy because when we saw the picture of her we fell in love and decided she would be a great fit for our family," Cooper said. "There really isn't that big of a difference getting her now than if we would've gotten her before quarantine. We can still go outside and play with her or take her on walks. It is sad though because all of my friends wanted to come see her when we first got her, but they couldn't."

Over quarantine, my own family has fostered three puppies from MEHS and one puppy from Stray Rescue in St. Louis. Although having three puppies along with my dog and cats is exhausting, it is also such a nice distraction for the start of quarantine and adjusting to this temporary way of life. It has also given my dog an opportunity to interact with other dogs, which is something she is not able to do on a regular basis.

The puppy that we are currently fostering from Stray Rescue was a stray dog living with a pack of other dogs. He was very unsocialized and afraid of humans when we first got him. Being able to watch him grow and become a happy carefree puppy has been so rewarding. While we are helping him to become an adoptable dog, he is serving as a bright spot in all of my long days in the house.

"Dogs and cats have a knack for knowing just how to make us laugh and relax which is so important when stress levels are at an all-time high for some," Winkler said. "The feeling of comfort and stress relief that comes from interacting with pets is so well established that using pets in workplaces, schools, and nursing homes as a stress relief tool is already common practice."

Besides her new dog, Bruss said that her Shitzu has helped her to deal with stress.

"She really is one of my best friends and has been my main coping mechanism through the whole quarantine," Bruss said. "Sometimes I call her my little therapy dog because she can sense when I'm getting upset and will try to cuddle and comfort me until I feel a bit better."

Whether adopting a new pet, fostering or simply spending time with your pets, now is an ideal time to do it.

"You have more time to bond, train, and enjoy your new friendship," Winkler said. "The benefits are mutual, these fostered or adopted pets get to spend time lounging on the couch, playing in the yard, and sleeping in on the weekends."

STUDENTS GET CREATIVE TO FILL DOWNTIME

by Taylor Meek, A&E Editor

Instead of dwelling on the events lost to the quarantine initiated due to COVID-19, teenagers have found ways of staying positive, staying healthy and helping others do the same during such a novel time.

Make a Starbucks Drink

Practicing good social distancing also means giving up the daily overpriced pleasures of restaurants. This includes fueling your Starbucks addiction, but there is a safe way to get your favorite drinks.

The popular app Tik Tok has been the go-to platform on how-to's lately. Users have shared their secrets for surviving quarantine by providing easy-to-follow recipes.

Tik Tok user @vsco...girlz offered her insight on how to make a vanilla frappe.

She suggested blending ice, one cup of milk and a teaspoon of vanilla extract. She then added in two teaspoons of sugar and a shot of espresso with plain coffee.

Another popular drink that Starbucks regulars swear by is the pink drink. User @xaestnetics.and.vscox made the notorious drink by adding strawberries, ice, half a cup of almond coconut milk and your choice measurement of white cranberry strawberry cocktail juice.

Write Letters to Nursing Home Residents

On March 20 Gov. Pritzker issued the stay-at-home order, which was the last day nursing home residents were able to have visitors. Visitors keep up their spirits because they were isolated in some way before the coronavirus chaos and they need us more than ever. Writing to residents is a safe way to touch their hearts.

The small gestures can mean a lot to citizens living in the nursing homes. Senior Kelsey Doran works at the Glenwood Supportive Living of Staunton and enjoys seeing the reactions of the residents as they receive kind gifts from their community and families.

"We have received so many letters and also, gifts like food and snacks," Doran said. "[The Assembly Church] has been sending the residents letters an/d they love them. Some family members have been sending other residents cute cards."

A few senior citizen homes near or in Edwardsville are Rosewood Care Center at Center Grove at 6277 Center Grove Road, Eden Village retirement Center at 600 S Station Road, Cedarhurst of Edwardsville at 7108 Marine Road and Liberty Village of Maryville at 6955 IL-162.

Stay Active

As much as quarantine may sound like a free pass to lounge around, get some rest and catch up on Netflix shows, it is important to get exercise and fresh air every once in a while.

> **"EVERYONE HAS THEIR OWN WAY OF STAYING IN TUNE WITH THEIR BODIES..."**

This doesn't mean you need to do a hardcore workout everyday. Senior Isabella Olson has taken up a new hobby known for working your body, but also keeping you in a state of serenity.

"I have just started yoga, and I love it," Olson said. "It is relaxing and I hope to continue it on in college."

Olson keeps in shape at a slow pace. Meanwhile, senior Calen McKinney does intense workouts almost every single day to stay fit for basketball.

McKinney dedicates three days of the week to "insane" leg workouts.

"Every Monday, Wednesday and Friday I do a 15-mile bike ride and a 3-mile run," McKinney said. He then follows this with an extensive leg workout.

Everyone has their own way of staying in tune with their bodies, and these are just two ways you can push your body's limits in different ways.

Keep the Creative Juices Flowing

There are many inexpensive activities that you can do from the comfort of your home, such as up-cycling, sidewalk art, making a new play list, painting, drawing and more.

Seniors Amanda Wickman and Samantha Jackson have decided to rehash the past and start doing activities they used to do before a busy life got in the way.

"When I was younger I used to be really crafty and any decor I wanted, I made it myself," Jackson said. "So since there hasn't been much else to do lately I've started getting crafty again and I recently did some letters for my dorm room in the fall."

Wickman has also taken up a new, old hobby: sewing.

"I made my own cloth masks for me and my family," Wickman said.

With the Internet at your disposal for inspiration, it could be difficult to say 'I'm bored' with the endless possibilities and our 'normal' everyday routines put to an abrupt halt.

Taylor Meek presents her homemade Starbucks drink.
photo by Taylor Meek

GRADUATES MOURN CELEBRATIONS, MEMORIES STOLEN BY COVID-19

by Jacqueline Glenn, Co-Edior-in-Chief

When senior Nathan Heisler exited Edwardsville High School on March 16, he had no idea that it would be his last day of in-person high school.

It was supposed to be a temporary school closure: Gov. Pritzker declared on March 13 that it would last only two weeks.

In fact, Heisler was excited. He lives a 30-minute drive away from EHS, and this closure would save him some gas money.

"I like going to school; it's a nice and structured part of my day and, though it can be a bit stressful, it's a nice way for me to get out of the house just about every day," Heisler said. "...I really thought it was going to be the two weeks, or at most a month."

But the COVID-19 pandemic quickly spiraled downward. The closure was extended through April 30, and then through the rest of the academic year.

This move led to countless uncertainties, especially for seniors and graduating juniors. Would there be a graduation ceremony? How would we get our yearbooks? What about the Tour de Grove tradition? What about saying goodbye to our classmates and teachers?

Heisler had already selected his Tropical Day outfit—of the traditions that he will not experience, he is most sad about this last-day-of-school one.

"It was an orange floral button-up shirt and a white pair of cargo shorts, and I was going to use a pair of sunglasses to keep my bangs out of my face," Heisler said. "And of course, sandals—you have to have sandals."

Because they were unaware that March 16 would be the final day of school, the missed opportunity to bid their friends farewell especially upsets senior Annabelle Watson, although they view the closure as a necessary precaution.

"I've never been a fan of going to school," Watson said, "but I do enjoy seeing my friends every day."

With their college and career plans beckoning, many seniors and graduating juniors are mourning the loss of their final months of childhood.

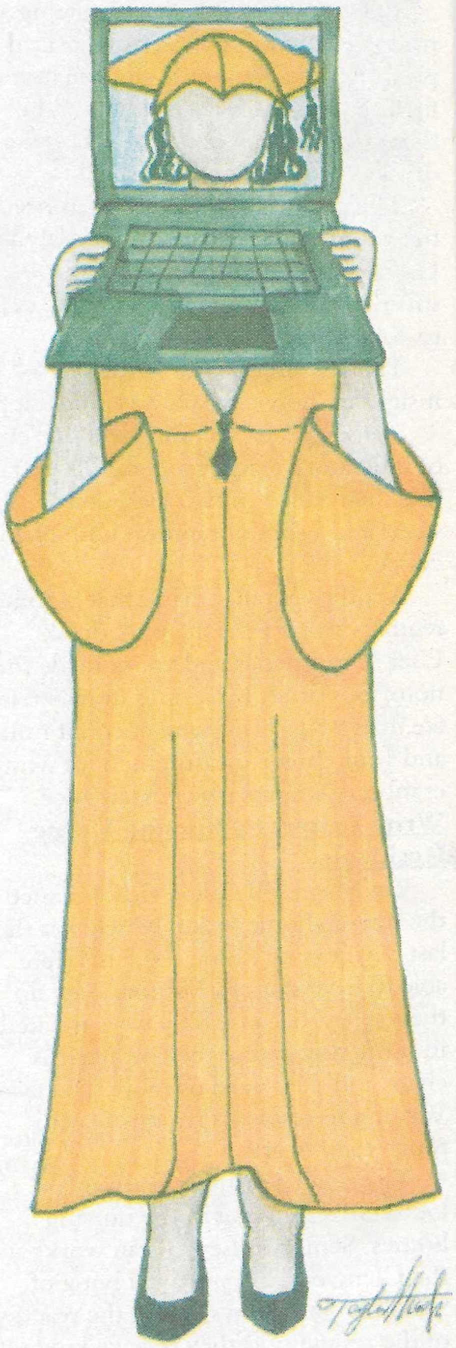
"A lot of our 'lasts' were my lasts in civilian life," said graduating junior Lyla Foushee, who leaves for Army basic training this summer. "…Senior spirit week, prom and graduation were supposed to be my last big things with my friends, memories I won't get anymore."

District 7 has made attempts to preserve some sense of normalcy for seniors and graduating juniors, including a Tropical Drive-Thru day on what would have been the last day of school, May 15. A drive-thru pickup line for diploma covers will occur between May 18-22, and a virtual graduation ceremony will be held on May 23.

"I realize how deeply disappointed you are by the cancellation or alteration of many events that were supposed to create life-long memories," Dr. Cramsey wrote in an April 24 email to parents and students. "…I want to do as much as I can to honor our seniors."

Foushee said that she is "more than okay" with the altered plans for graduation and other culminating events.

"Losing my lasts sucked, but closing school potentially saved someone's life," Foushee said. "It is so sad that I won't get those memories, but I'm mature enough to realize the importance of it. I really don't know whether to be sad or grateful."



STUDENTS HOST QUARANTINE-APPROPRIATE PROMS

by Taylor Meek, Culture Editor

For many seniors and graduating juniors, experiencing our last prom feels like a rite of passage, and with COVID-19 having stripped us of our last high school events, students have found safe, creative ways to fill the void.

Senior Kiera Doughty was more than prepared for her prom experience when she received the news about the stay-at-home order.

"I was so disappointed when I found out that prom was canceled. My dress that I ordered online actually came in the mail that exact day," Doughty said. "I had just figured out plans for a group and where we were going to dinner and I was so sad that none of it would be happening."

Regardless of the circumstances, some students have put those prom dresses to use.

"I posted a story on my spam Instagram account a couple days ago and just told any of my high school friends, who were interested in doing a Zoom prom, to respond and I'd add them to a big group chat," senior Anna Bruss said.

These students kept their prom dreams alive as best they could.

"Whenever someone joined we had them spin around and show off their dress," Bruss said. "Lots of us had lights strung up in our rooms so it made it kind of look like a prom, which was nice."

Senior Emily Paur, a participant in the virtual prom, was more than happy to dress up and party with her friends.

"I think at one point we had 13 to 15 people [online,]" Paur said. "...people could join and wear whatever they wanted...Most of us wore dresses. A few of us dressed more casually. It lasted from 5 pm to 7:30 pm, so it was a fun thing to do to talk and catch up."

If an hour-and-a-half Zoom meeting filled with 15 people wasn't enough, Bruss had just one thing left to do.

"I had everyone send me a picture of them in their prom outfit, and I Photoshopped us into a picture together," Bruss said. "We decided to do a destination photo as a joke."

Another student went for a more glamorous untraditional prom planned by her mother who wanted her to have an evening just as special.

"So I got ready and we were going out to take pictures and when we were leaving, I was surprised with a limo," senior Tess Kruse said. "We went to show my grandparents my dress and went to St. Louis, SIUE Gardens and the high school to take pictures."

Her mom, dad, sister and brother-in-law, who doubled as her "date," were all along for the ride.

Many students have found safe, positive ways of enjoying their last high school hoorah with friends and family before graduation.

Kruse's family wasn't the only one dishing out prom surprises. Doughty's family planned an enchanting evening.

Her family invited a guest over and turned their basement into a restaurant.

"They invited my boyfriend over and decorated our basement with candles and Christmas lights." she said. "My sister volunteered to be our waitress. We got dinner and dessert from Peel, and then danced to our own play list."

Most of us have worn nothing but lounge wear since Gov. Pritzker issued the stay-at-home order on March 20, so Doughty was more than willing to have a rags-to-riches moment.

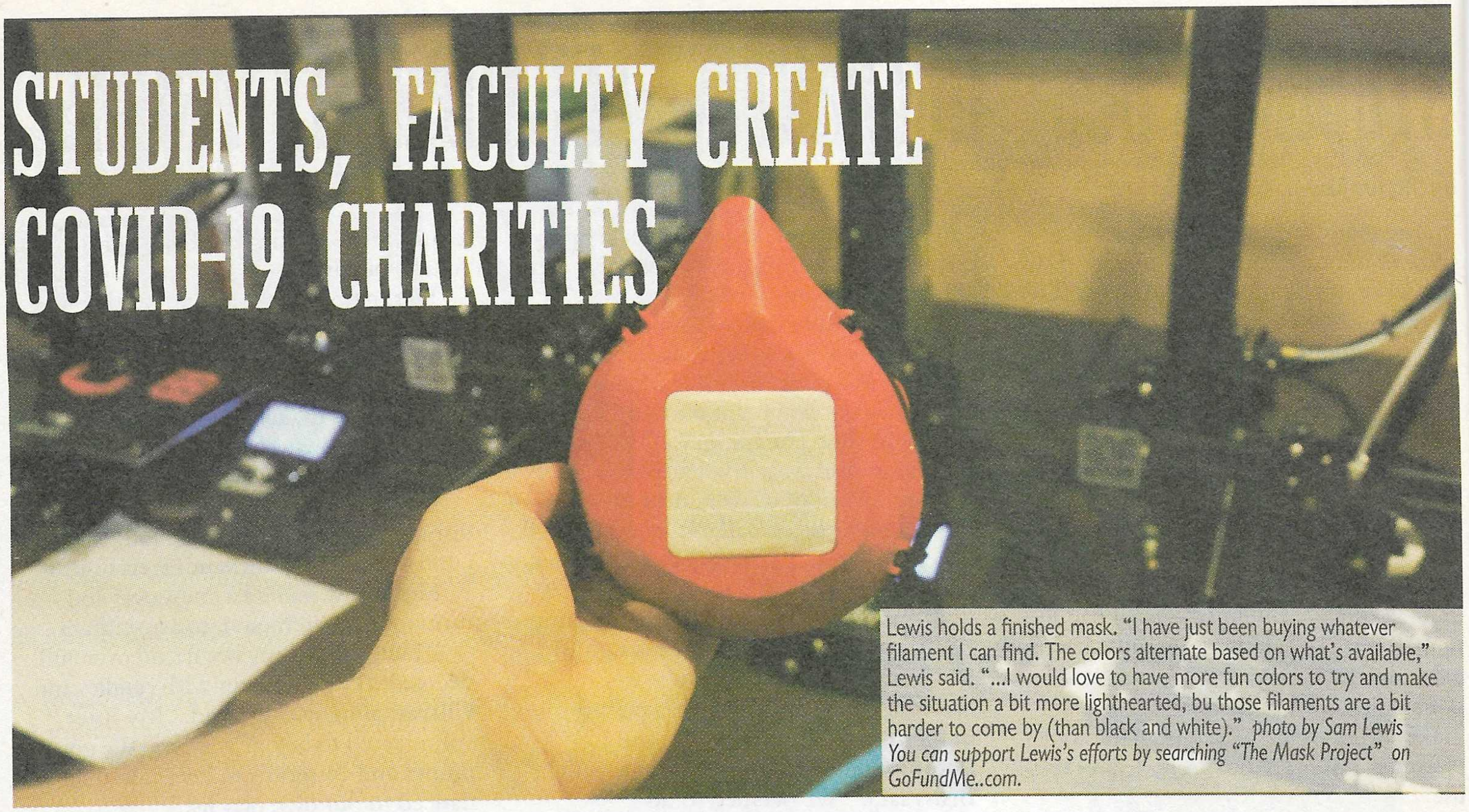
"My favorite part of the night was definitely getting dressed up," she said. "I had been bumming it in my sweats for so long, and it was nice to have a reason to wear something fancy."

Kruse sits in a surprise limo rented by family members.
Photo courtesy of Tess Kruse

Photoshopped picture of Zoom prom participants.
Photo courtesy of Anna Bruss

Doughty poses in her backyard on prom day.
Photo courtesy of Kiera Doughty

STUDENTS, FACULTY CREATE COVID-19 CHARITIES



Lewis holds a finished mask. "I have just been buying whatever filament I can find. The colors alternate based on what's available," Lewis said. "...I would love to have more fun colors to try and make the situation a bit more lighthearted, bu those filaments are a bit harder to come by (than black and white)." *photo by Sam Lewis*
You can support Lewis's efforts by searching "The Mask Project" on GoFundMe..com.

by Jacqueline Glenn, Co-Editor-in-Chief

Instead of spending their free time binging Netflix shows, EHS students and faculty members have created these charities, vowing to meet needs that the COVID-19 pandemic has created.

The Mask Project

Watching the number COVID-19 cases skyrocket across the country and the supply of personal protective equipment dwindling, senior Sam Lewis looked to his 3-D printer for help.

Lewis began The Mask Project, a one-man operation, on March 26 with the help of a GoFundMe that raised over $1,400 for supplies and some inspiration from his Californian friend, who founded a similar organization for his community.

"Ever since I heard that the coronavirus was happening, I figured that we'd miss some amount of school," Lewis said. "I thought it would be cool to start some kind of business or not-for-profit during that time, and this is a once-in a lifetime opportunity to help people."

The design of the mask is open-sourced online, so Lewis said was able to easily replicate it with his printer.

"Once it's printed, then it's coated with a sealant to make the outside of it cleaner to prevent anything else from getting in," Lewis said. "From there, it's sanitized, and the filters are inserted and everything is vacuum-sealed to make it safe."

Lewis estimates that he spends about four hours daily making the masks, but he still has ample time for his Remote Learning responsibilities—each mask takes five hours and 32 minutes to produce, allowing time for homework in between masks. The Mask Project produces up to nine masks per day.

But despite the hefty time commitment, Lewis said he has no complaints about the process. He loves it all.

So far, The Mask Project has donated 73 masks to individuals who have placed orders, and Lewis hopes to deliver some to nursing homes in the coming weeks. His goal is to secure enough funding to continue the project through the remainder of the pandemic.

"A lot of people seem to be trying to profit off of this situation, and I personally don't agree with that," Lewis said. "This is a not-for-profit, so everything I make goes to a good cause, to help as many people as possible."

Bracelets for Better

Junior Sarah Lange converted her boredom and extra string and beads into her own charity: Bracelets for Better.

The organization sells homemade friendship bracelets to raise money for Oxfam's COVID-19 relief efforts, which include providing cleaning supplies and washing stations to countries across the globe. Oxfam, a nonprofit organization that seeks to end poverty, has responded to other large outbreaks like that of the Ebola and Zika viruses, according to its website.

"You can order bracelets for your friends and get them sent directly to their house, or order bracelets for yourself," Lange said.

Each Monday and Friday at 5 p.m., Lange said that she "drops" a new style of bracelet on the project's Instagram account, @braceletsforbetter_, for customers to buy. If not all the bracelets sell that day, Lange puts them up for sale on Bracelets for Better's website.

Junior Emily Magruder became interested in Bracelets for Better while scrolling through Instagram and finding its page. She and her younger sister now help Lange by making some of the bracelets.

"Since we can't do much with the

situation, and everyone is struggling, it's something that we can do to help. Not much, but anything helps," Magruder said. "So many people are helpless during this time, but if someone can help, they definitely should."

Lange spends about two to four hours per day creating the bracelets.

"Both my favorite and least favorite part has actually been making the bracelets. Sometimes I love it and it's super relaxing," Lange said. "But other times I really don't want to do it because I've been doing it for so long, but then I remember why I'm doing it and feel a little better."

Bracelets for Better has raised almost $100 in just the first few days, and Lange hopes to raise $500 total. Lange is encouraged by the positive response.

"I always think it's important to give back and love helping people as much as possible," Lange said. "Right now, I know that a lot of people are struggling a lot more than usual and can't help. So I'm doing my best to help as much as I can."

"We're All in This Together"

If in-person school were in session, StuCo would be busy planning numerous events and fundraisers like Mr. EHS and New Friends Prom. But the organization is still finding a way to give back despite the cancellations: selling EHS T-shirts online with the slogan "We're All in This Together" to benefit the GlenEd Food Pantry and Edwardsville Neighbors.

> **"WE NEED TO PULL TOGETHER FOR OUR COMMUNITY."**

New StuCo adviser Meredith Beck-Wright wrote in an email that Casual Tees approached her with the idea, and she collaborated with the business to create an online store for the fundraiser. A social-distancing compliant pickup for the orders will be on May 19, according to the store's website.

Sophomore StuCo member Jenae Wright explained that although Mrs. Beck-Wright has championed the fundraiser, StuCo students are aiding the effort by promoting it on social media. Dr. Cramsey has also spread the word via email and social media.

"I believe everyone needs to find a way they can help others during this time," Wright said. "We need to pull together for our community."

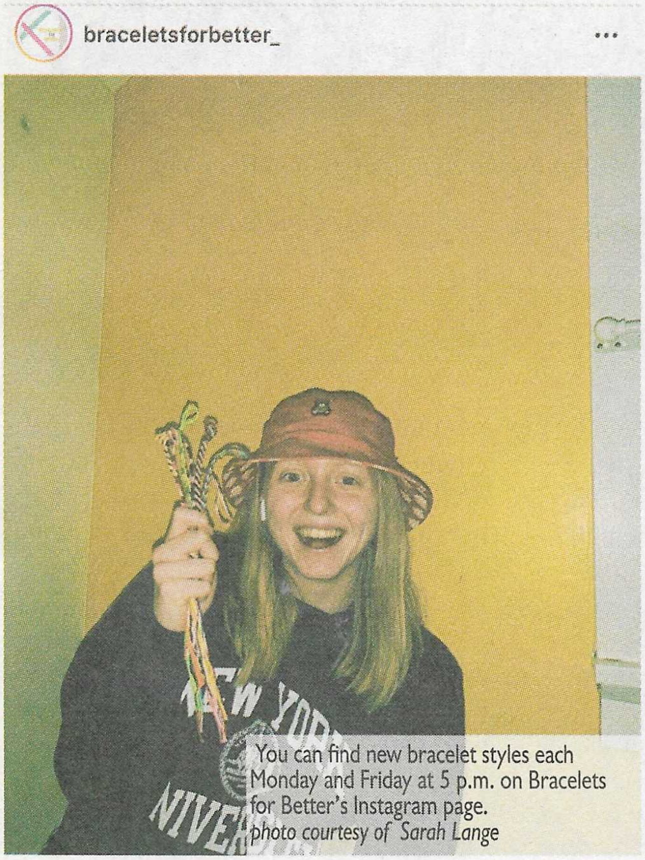
The fundraiser is already successful, Mrs. Beck-Wright said.

"We really saw the power of the sense of community reflected in our early online orders and we will all work together as a team to keep the number of purchases growing."

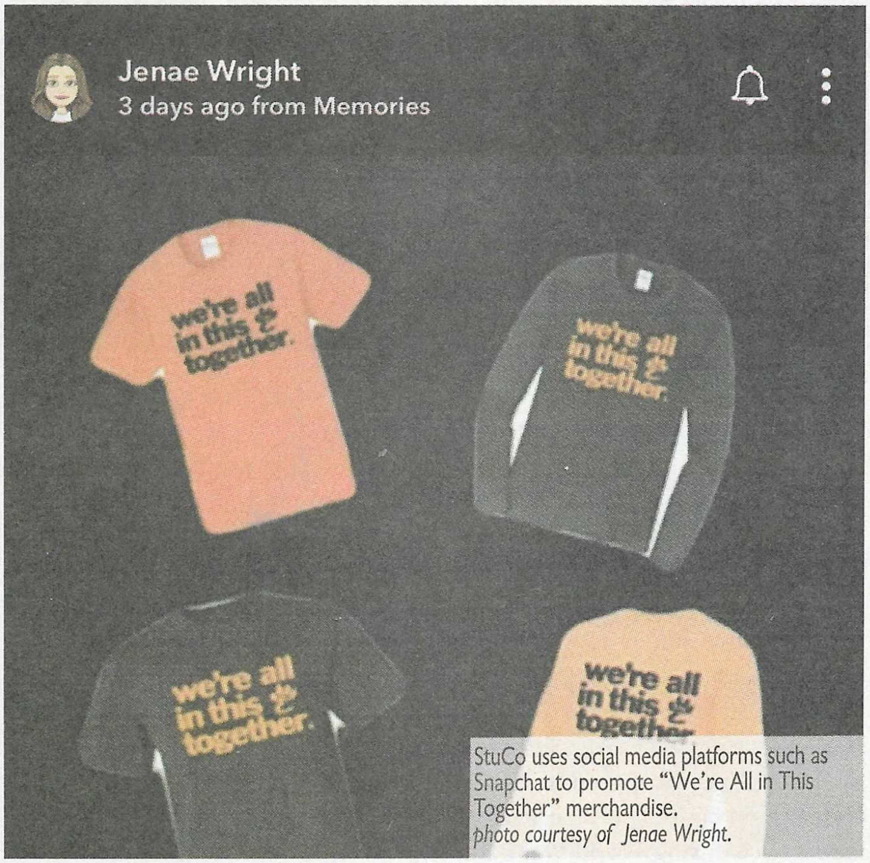
Mrs. Beck-Wright hopes that the fundraiser inspires EHS students and faculty members to "still feel united."

"My household was lucky enough to not be financially impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, but I have witnessed firsthand with family and friends the mental and emotional turmoil that has come from the high amounts of furloughed employees, growing rates of confirmed cases and the increasing sadness around the cancellation of highly anticipated community events like our high school's prom and a traditional EHS graduation ceremony.

"I think everyone has felt in one way or another negatively impacted by the craziness that is the coronavirus, and if something as simple as a community-wide T-shirt sale can boost morale, then really the question is why not?"



You can find new bracelet styles each Monday and Friday at 5 p.m. on Bracelets for Better's Instagram page.
photo courtesy of Sarah Lange


Jenae Wright
3 days ago from Memories
we're all in this together.
we're all in this together.
we're all in this together.
we're all in this together

StuCo uses social media platforms such as Snapchat to promote "We're All in This Together" merchandise.
photo courtesy of Jenae Wright.

SPORTS

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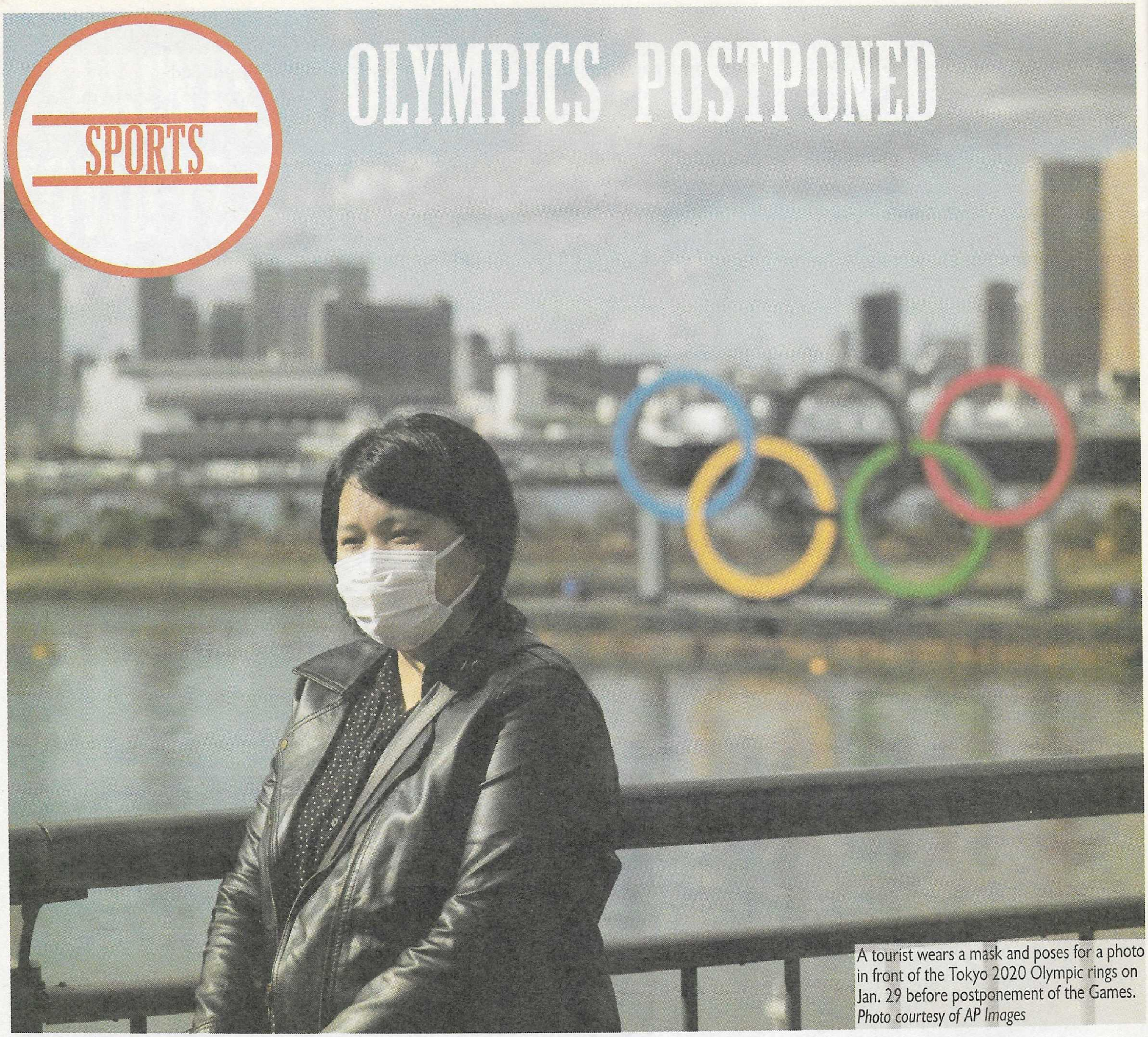


A tourist wears a mask and poses for a photo in front of the Tokyo 2020 Olympic rings on Jan. 29 before postponement of the Games. *Photo courtesy of AP Images*

by Hannah Thompson, Staff Writer

The COVID-19 pandemic has unapologetically inserted itself into people's lives all around the world. Even the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games have fallen victim to the world's current unpredictable and novel state.

The first written record of the Olympic Games dates back to 776 B.C. in ancient Greece, according to National Geographic. And since the first modern Olympics opened in 1896, the competition has only been canceled three times: once during World War I and twice during World War II.

This year marks the first year, however, that the Games have been postponed to a later year. The Tokyo Olympics will be delayed from its original July 24, 2020 opening date to July 23, 2021.

While hosting any Olympics is regarded as a "terrible investment" by Business Insider, the fall out from the pandemic puts Japan in an even shakier financial situation. The country is losing billions in what is setting up to be the worst economy in decades.

While the prospect of the 2021 Olympics gives hope of recouping some of the lost money, many businesses and industries will not be able to recover from the loss of expected tourism, according to ESPN.

The repercussions of this entirely unorthodox situation stretch further than the economy. Many questions have been raised about what this means for the athletes who already qualified.

According to ESPN, the United States Olympic and Paralympic Committee leadership told the athletes that their positions in the 2021 Games are most likely secure, but there have not been any formal public statements made.

Despite obvious disappointment, many Olympic athletes have supported the delay and reassured their fans over social media.

Dutch track and field Olympic athlete Dafne Schippers reached out to her followers on Instagram to share her thoughts on the unfortunate situation.

"Needless to say, I was really looking forward and my shape is good at the moment but for now we have to look at the bigger picture and do whatever it takes to beat the coronavirus," Schippers said.

With the extensive training process the athletes undergo to prepare for the Games and the sensitivity of their physical form, another year of preparation is a daunting and uncertain notion for many of the athletes.

"We'll prepare for it as best as we can," Italian swimmer Federica Pellegrini said to the Los Angeles Times. "Now it's just about reprogramming everything, as we would have done this year. And let's hope that my body can hold on for another year."

Kate Courtney, a former American mountain bike cross-country world champion, put words to the emotional aspect of the delay.

"Our time will come," Courtney said. "These dreams are not cancelled; they are just on hold for a moment. Hope and heartbreak can live side by side."

"OUR TIME WILL COME. THESE DREAMS ARE NOT CANCELLED; THEY ARE JUST ON HOLD FOR A MOMENT."

Disappointment has reached the local audience as well. Sophomore Tyler Chrenka was upset about the postponement when he found out.

"I was disappointed because I really like to watch the Olympics with my family, but I fully understand why it was postponed," Chrenka said. "The virus is very dangerous, and it would likely spread very easily throughout the crowds and the athletes."

For other spectators, delay has raised questions about tickets and refunds. The Tokyo 2020 website says that purchased tickets should still be valid for the event next year and refunds are available if one cannot attend. However, refunds still may not be given out to those who bought tickets via third party sites.

The year-long delay may have positive outcomes for some. Sophomore Mia Hou and her family may take the opportunity to go see the games in Tokyo next summer.

"Our vacation this summer got cancelled and so my parents were saying how next summer we'll go to Taiwan and might be able to watch the Olympics," Hou said.

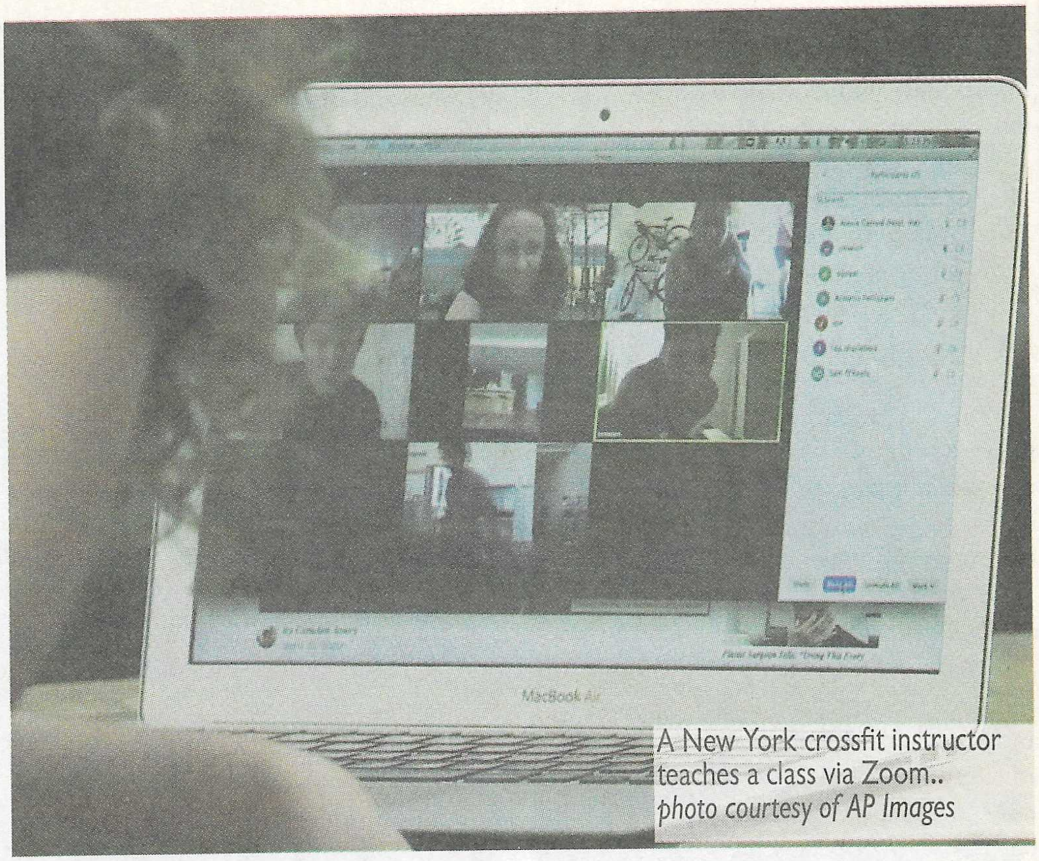
United States Olympic swimmer Lilly King also seems to be taking a positive approach to dealing with the postponement as he reached out to her supporters via Instagram.

"Just one more year to get better."

Honorary President Fujio Mitarai (left) talks with Tokyo Olympic President Yoshiro Mori at the Tokyo 2020 Executive Board Meeting on March 30, 2020.
Photo courtesy of AP Images

STUDENT ATHLETES CONTINUE TRAINING

by Cassi Reaka, Life Editor



A New York crossfit instructor teaches a class via Zoom..
photo courtesy of AP Images

While COVID-19 has led to the cancellation of almost all professional sports and many Americans' primary form of entertainment, stay-at-home orders and self-quarantine have also meant the absence of an entire season for many student-athletes.

Many of these athletes who are used to practicing and training constantly are now stuck at home, and can not attend normal practices and meet with their teammates and coaches.

Beyond missing the social aspect, students are not being as active as they typically would be, which, according to the Science Daily, can lead to symptoms of depression. However, many student-athletes have been able to continue training with their teammates remotely thanks to Zoom and similar services.

Junior Ruth Prenzler is a competitive gymnast with the YMCA. Her competition season was cut short because of coronavirus, and she and her teammates are not able to continue training in the gym with equipment.

"Without practice we aren't able to work many of the skills we would need for the upcoming season," Prenzler said.

To substitute in-person training, Prenzler and her team workout via Zoom three times a week, and Prenzler works out by herself every other day.

"It is definitely different training, and I don't get to do most of the skills that I would be working out," Prenzler said. "Working out by myself is also new, as I usually have teammates with me, whether I'm in the gym or not."

Without her teammates and with less intense training, Prenzler has had to find motivation to continue pushing herself.

"It is hard to not be together, encouraging and motivating each other like we do in the gym," Prenzler said, "but I motivate myself by knowing I want to be stronger for when I do get back to the gym."

Sophomore Rebecca Redman is a swimmer for the high school and Edwardsville YMCA Breakers and missed out on the end of winter season with the Breakers. Although her team has not been continuing practices over quarantine, Redman has continued to train to keep in shape for when things return to normal.

"IT IS HARD TO NOT BE TOGETHER, ENCOURAGING AND MOTIVATING EACH OTHER LIKE WE DO IN THE GYM."

"I have continued to train by doing workout videos and running outside six days a week," Redman said. "This training is a little different for me because I'm a swimmer and I'm not able to train in the water since the pools are closed."

Although working out has helped her to cope with stress, Redman said that practicing has not felt right since she is not with teammates.

"They aren't there to push me or cheer me on," Redman said.

Besides that, not being able to train in the water has made the break from training even harder.

"Training during this time is not normal for me because it's a totally different type of training," Redman said. "Training on land compared to training in the water is completely different."

Junior Joseph Sommer plays soccer for the St. Louis Football Club and had his entire season canceled due to COVID-19, but he has continued practicing with his team remotely.

"We have home workout sessions and field training each week and a team Zoom session every Sunday," Sommer said.

Sommer is grateful that he has been able to continue training during this time filled with uncertainty.

"Being able to continue practicing has a huge contribution," Sommer said. "It helps me to relieve stress and stay positive."

SPORTS WHEN THERE ARE NO SPORTS

by Emily Kloostra, Staff Writer

When the NBA suspended the 2020 season on March 11, sports fans began to realize that COVID-19 was going to affect all aspects of life.

The next day, Major League Soccer, NASCAR, WWE, the MLB and the NHL suspended their seasons. NCAA canceled all remaining winter and spring championships, which meant that sports fans' beloved March Madness basketball tournament was gone.

Sports of all kinds seemingly disappeared in a couple of days.

With no live sports to broadcast or analyze, TV networks were left with gaping holes in their schedules.

"ESPN has nine domestic cable channels, plus a streaming service, so it has over 200 hours of programming each day built specifically around a live sports calendar that no longer exists," Kevin Draper reported for the New York Times.

Now, a month and a half later, they have been filled by a mish-mash of bizarre, prerecorded sporting events and talk shows that highlight the impact of COVID-19 on sports.

One could have tuned in to ESPN to watch the 2019 American Cornhole Championships (it was a real nail-biter) or the 7-hour long marathon of spelling bees (yes, they put on three straight spelling bees in a row).

Other channels instead decided to air dog agility competitions or cliff diving.

Some networks chose to rerun popular games in local history. In the St. Louis area, many fans enjoyed rewatching the 2019 Stanley Cup finals.

Live sporting events provide a kind of novelty that makes them different from other types of entertainment. They only happen once and when they are done, they are done. TV networks are finding that running prerecorded events can only go on for so long.

"The second a game ends, its value drops precipitously," Draper reported. "As programming, live sports aren't the brand-new car that loses 10 percent of its value the second it is driven off the lot. Live sports are the brand-new car that gets totaled by a speeding semi-truck the second it is driven off the lot."

For senior Makenzi Keller, knowing the outcome of the Stanley Cup games made for a more subdued experience.

"I figured I was still a little nervous watching it, but I wasn't as nervous as I was in real time," she said. "... I still teared up, just not as much as before."

Keller doesn't think she will stop watching hockey any time soon, however.

"If it doesn't hinder my other activities, and I remember what time it actually comes on, I would definitely rewatch," she said. "... I don't think I could ever get bored of the Stanley Cup final game seven."

Freshman Zoe Byron used to watch soccer, hockey or baseball after finishing her homework, but now watching them live isn't an option, so she spends her time watching reruns of old soccer and hockey games

"I don't get as excited as before," she said, "but they are still fun."

Keller and Byron show that while some reruns can work, fans still want live action.

The need for new content was evident on April 23 during the 2020 NFL Draft. The event was held virtually for the first time, and although fans and teams alike feared technical glitches, it was undoubtedly a success for the sports networks.

The first night of the draft brought in 15.6 million viewers across multiple networks according to CNBC, a 37 percent increase over the 2019 broadcast numbers.

Networks saw an even greater increase during the second night of the draft, with 40 percent more people tuning in than last year.

The lack of live sports is challenging networks, but the past months have shown they are not going down without a fight.

PIETRANGELO
27

Alex Peitrangelo shows off the Stanely Cup a game against the Captals in October.
photo courtesy of AP Images

CULTURE

GERMAN CANDY BRIGHTENS UP QUARANTINE LIFE

The Brause- Pulver, Nimm2, hazelnut treats and Eierlikör Eier are some of the treats that stood out the most to me.
photo by Emily Kloostra

by Emily Kloostra, Staff Writer

After hosting two foreign exchange students at my house while in high school, I have found that the connections I formed last long after my new sisters leave Edwardsville.

One of my favorite parts is the food exchange. I send American candy and chocolate to them, and they send back the delicacies of their own countries.

My most recent package came from Verena Klein in southwestern Germany. I hosted Klein for two weeks as part of the GAPP exchange this past fall.

Sent one day before Germany stopped shipping outside its borders, Klein's "parcel" was filled to the brim with German Easter candy.

And what a feast it was.

The first item I noticed were little wrapped candies that looked suspiciously like cough drops. The German name, nimm2, means "take 2" in English, but I only tried one before I knew what they were.

I was met with a subtle, gummy orange candy. It tasted good, but it wasn't any different than a Starburst. I was a little let down until I bit the candy, and I suddenly understood why people might want to "take 2." In the middle of the gummy exterior was a juicy burst of flavor. The nimm2s reminded me of Gushers, but they tasted less fake. I rate them a 9/10, but only because there were so few strawberry ones that my sister ate all of them before I could try one.

My next conquest was a package of Haribo "Baiser Eier," or meringue eggs. I've made meringues at my house before, but these looked nothing like the puffy eggs whites I have whipped up. Instead, they looked like vibrantly colored hard shell candies.

While not my favorite candy I've had, they are certainly unlike anything I have tried from Walmart or Target. The closest I can come to describing it is like if cotton candy was smashed and covered in Skittle coating. I would give these a solid 7/10 although my mother who searched Amazon for another bag would probably disagree.

There wasn't only fruity candy in the package, however. Along with some typical chocolate shaped bunnies, Klein sent me a few more German treats.

For some reason, Europe seems to have an obsession with hazelnuts. The chocolate I received from Italy last year was full of them, and multiple selections from Germany are too. My favorite hazelnut treats have to be the Knoppers Minis and Hanuta Minis. Both are a wafer sort of cookie, layered with chocolate and hazelnut spread. Basically, it is my new favorite way to eat Nutella, and I give it an 8/10.

An honorary note has to go out to the Eierlikör Eier, which, after looking at the bag, are chocolate eggs filled with an alcoholic egg liqueur. I did not try these, but my mom did and she said you could definitely taste the alcohol. Right now, I'll give it a 3/10 because it has nice packaging. Check in with me in three years to learn about the taste.

After my initial search of the contents, the item in the package that excited me the most to try was Brause-Pulver. It looks like a weird brand of Kool-Aid, but after talking with Klein, I learned that the powder in the packets creates a fizzy effect in drinks.

The powder came in four flavors: raspberry, orange, lemon, and something called woodruff.While the packets are the same size as Kool-Aid, they contained far less flavoring and only made one glass each. The Brause, as Klein called it, also does not require additional sugar.

My sister and I tried the woodruff flavor first, as that was the most mysterious. The powder was a green color and smelled slightly of citrus. We poured it into the water and could hear fizzing noises. While the water turned green initially, it returned to its clear color once all of the powder had dissolved.

The drink itself tasted almost like Ski, the lemon and orange soda that is bottled in Breese, Ill. The fizz was almost there, like a soda that is just about to go flat but still has a little pep in its step. 6/10

I also tried the raspberry flavor, which was delicious, 8/10. It really tasted like raspberries, although it was extremely sweet. The package barely made a glass and I couldn't finish it.

Overall, I was extremely happy with this box of goodies. I'm thankful for my friend for sending it to me and allowing me to try so many different things that I never would have known about.

VIRTUAL CONCERTS PROVIDE IN-HOME ENTERTAINMENT

by Jack Pifer, Views Editor

While everything under the sun has been canceled because of COVID-19, many musical artists have taken social media to support COVID-19 relief efforts while playing live music for fans around the world.

If watching concerts (from your couch) sounds better than doing nothing, then some of your favorite artists have you covered.

Artists such as Coldplay, Keith Urban, John Legend and more have streamed and posted anything ranging from small clips to full-on sets through platforms including Instagram, Facebook and Twitter.

Many of these concerts are part of the ongoing "Together at Home" initiative to promote social distancing and raise money. The series, launched by Global Citizen, kicked off during March with Global Citizen festival curator and Coldplay singer Chris Martin hosting the first online concert via Instagram live.

Since then, the message has spread to hundreds of other artists and on Apr. 18 Lady Gaga along with Global Citizen hosted a collaborative series of performances with a six hour pre-show and a two hour global broadcast with over 50 artists, from Elton John to Camilla Cabello. I was impressed watching this show with appearances from night show hosts and artists that surprised me.

The concert was watched by over 250 million people around the world on different platforms and raised over $127 million in support of healthcare workers through the COVID-19 Solidarity Response Fund.

Outside of "Together at Home" there are a multitude of other performances going on supporting food banks and other relief charities as well.

Even though not everyone can be a healthcare worker, it warms my heart that a global community can come together to support those that are directly helping those in need.

As of April 23, there are different concerts going on seven days a week. From symphonies to punk rock, anyone can find a genre or artist they like with a quick search. I was able to catch concerts from Green Day, the Rolling Stones, and a couple of others.

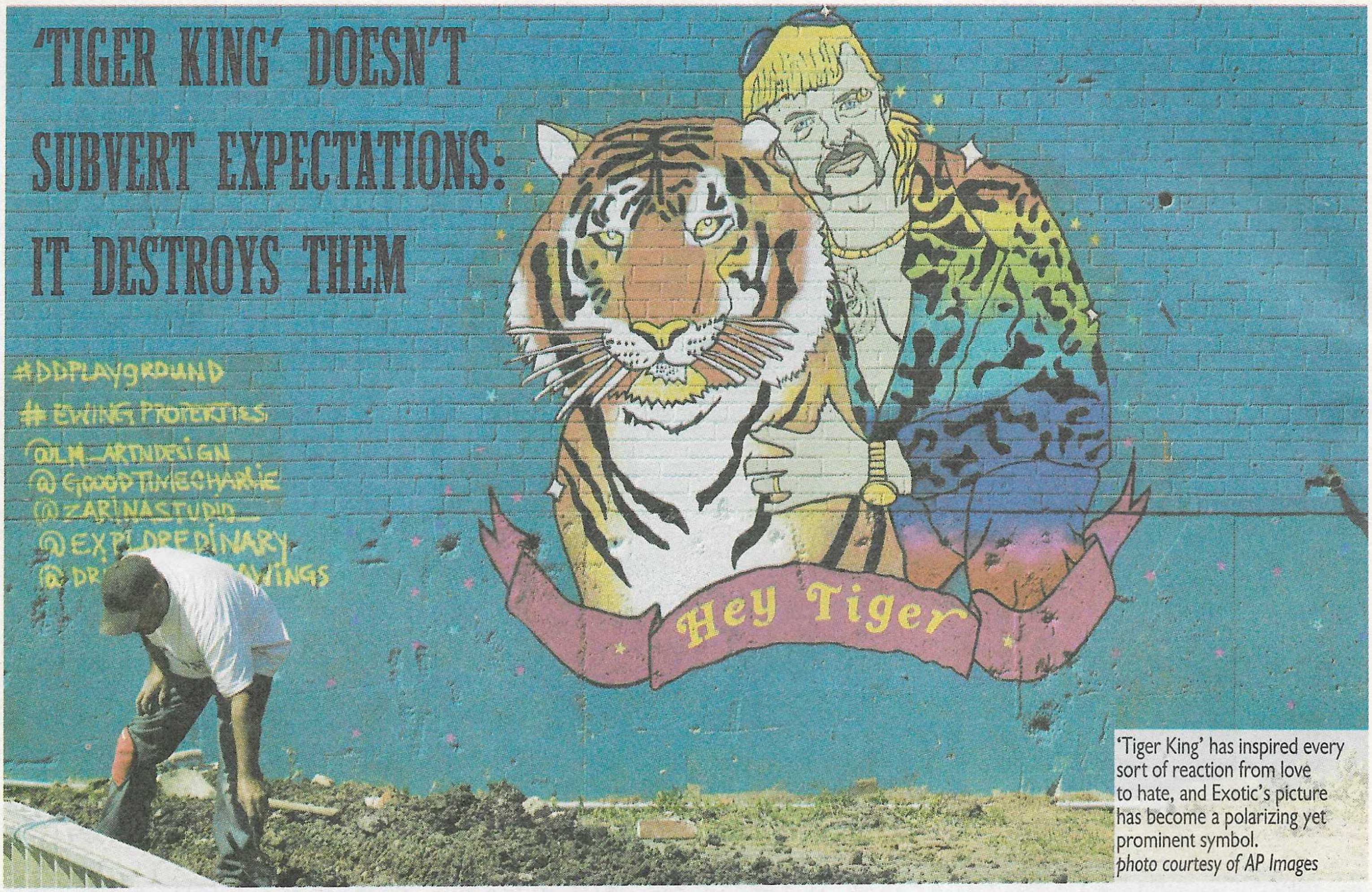
While it's not quite the real thing, I've enjoyed the opportunity to listen to artists that I probably will never get to hear live.

Perhaps the best part about these concerts is that they are free and are already on social media I use every single day.

If you missed out on some of these performances, you can access them through YouTube, Spotify, Apple Music and a few other places.

John Legend performs at an annual charity dinner. He and his wife Chrissy Teigen held many virtual concerts during March and April. *photo courtesy of AP Images*

'TIGER KING' DOESN'T SUBVERT EXPECTATIONS: IT DESTROYS THEM



'Tiger King' has inspired every sort of reaction from love to hate, and Exotic's picture has become a polarizing yet prominent symbol.
photo courtesy of AP Images

by Ryan Stewart, Co-Editor-in-Chief

Tigers, drugs and a gay, mulleted leader with two husbands.

As vivid a picture as that may paint, until a few months ago we didn't really have any clue how to imagine that in action. Thanks to "Tiger King" we now know exactly what that would look like.

And that background? Yeah that's the mild stuff.

In most stories, drugs are the center stage action around which everything revolves. But in "Tiger King" they're nothing more than a way to keep around one of the husbands of the aforementioned mullet owner.

Joe Maldonado-Passage "Exotic" entices the viewer by bringing them into the world of big cats, and with that mystique comes the real hook that's entranced so many people at home that the show has become a bit of a phenomenon.

That hook isn't a thing or a gimmick, it's Joe. His notorious attitude and general air of, frankly, insanity begins to paint a Mona Lisa of mayhem that shocks and stupefies the whole way through.

And once Joe Exotic is ingrained in your head after just those few short minutes of knowing him, the fireworks start popping off, as his greatest nemesis is quickly introduced.

Carol Baskin is the owner of Big Cat Rescue and a self-proclaimed animal rights activist. This puts her in a position of diametric opposition to Exotic, and the only thing they hold in relation to each other is hatred.

HIS NOTORIOUS ATTITUDE AND GENERAL AIR OF, FRANKLY, INSANITY BEGINS TO PAINT A MONA LISA OF MAYHEM...

Embittered videos and an online rivalry only escalate throughout the series, to points too shocking and captivating to spoil. If you're in the mood to watch the epitome of a white trash train crash of a show, look no further than "Tiger King."

However, the central conflict between Exotic and Baskin is not the only engrossing aspect of the show. The show raises many questions about how everything that took place really happened.

Chief among those questions is what happened to Baskin's rich second husband. According to her, he disappeared and likely hid out in Costa Rica, abandoning her and his well-off life.

But, Joe Exotic believes, with his entire being, that she killed him and fed him to her tigers. He makes it a point of bringing up the septic tank on her property, repeatedly demanding she let the police look inside the tank and investigate it.

Frankly, it doesn't help her case that the majority of sources interviewed, those sources being the players involved on both sides, believed or at least heavily suspected that she did indeed kill her husband, as the trailer for the show alludes to.

Joe Exotic's zoo has since been taken over in name and a new location is currently being constructed to help forget the owner forget about Exotic. *photo courtesy of AP Images*

Couple this with her hastily responding to and laughing off any questions about her second husband while somehow knowing exactly the best way to hide someone's body by feeding them to tigers, and it doesn't set her up to be the most innocent person on the planet.

In fact, after the release of the show, the case into the disappearance of her second husband has been reopened.

Not only do the events of the show stun and entertain, but they also bring a light to an important topic that will hopefully spur more public conversation about the treatment of animals though this is mainly used as a backdrop.

The makers of this show, or documentary as it really is, showcase a perfect journalistic approach and avoid sensationalism, no matter what Carol Baskin's response is.

She believes the show accuses her of murdering her second husband, but this is the conclusion that she herself draws from the testimonials given. The show's creators show both sides, but most people involved believe she likely did kill him.

In contrast to the high stakes game of life and death played on the show, the Internet has been ablaze with memes poking fun at just about everything involved regarding the show. Oh Carol just so happens to know that you can get a tiger ready to eat a man with sardine oil? That's prime real estate for about 15 different meme formats just right there. Couple this with unforgettable faces like one of Exotic's husbands, John Finlay, now famous for his absolutely perfect set of teeth, (sincerely dubbed the shotgun hole set of dentures for their ... distance) Saff, who lost his arm to a hungry tiger and thought "eh I have another one" and Doc "it's totally not a cult guys I swear," there is ample source material for the Internet to work with. As with anything popular, the memes were never ending.

...THE CASE INTO THE DISAPPEARANCE OF HER SECOND HUSBAND HAS BEEN REOPENED.

Back to the serious, and backing up to smell the roses, or rather the adrenaline pumping absurdities on screen, yields an interesting feeling of perplexedness.

With each new episode I watched, I could only bring myself to focus on the events of that episode and with each new startling revelation I was simply along for the bumpy, attention-consuming ride.

But when I looked back at what all had happened to Exotic's employees and Baskin's volunteers, and all the cult of personality warfare between the two they witnessed firsthand every day and spoke of in their testimonials, the realities of the show hit me again.

These are real people, and this, however improbable, however ridiculous, however insane, really happened.

At the end of the eccentric, flabbergasting day, "Tiger King" is one of the highest stakes experiences that showcases the insanities that a real story can produce.

IS THE GOVERNMENT'S RESPONSE TO COVID-19 ADEQUATE?

AMERICA
THE WORLD
IN TESTING

President Trump attempts to make it clear that America is doing the most in stopping the coronavirus.
photos courtesy of AP Images

by Katelyn Harris, Staff Writer

YES

The coronavirus has been a complete nightmare.

This being said, I've wondered what it would have been if stay at home orders weren't have put into place when they were.

Would it be worse? Was the turmoil surrounding the coronavirus necessary?

The answer is yes. While I believe the U.S. could have perhaps acted a little faster than we did, it's a good thing we acted when we did.

Imagine the whole country being as bad as New York City. If the U.S. wouldn't have taken the virus at least somewhat seriously, this would be a sad reality.

The main thing is that we stick to the quarantine and deal with the problems it brings, such as the number of people who disagree on how we are handling the stay at home orders. Some think they should be lifted while others think we aren't doing enough.

I don't think it would actually be possible for the U.S. to quarantine more than it is. Trump has given pretty much all the power to the states and truthfully, this is the best way to go about it.

While China has seemingly done more with their quarantine efforts, how much of what they are saying is true and are their numbers actually as low as they claim? After all, they didn't completely tell the truth during what seemed like the beginning of the virus.

"IT'S A GOOD THING WE ACTED WHEN WE DID."

"Chinese health authorities insisted that the virus did not spread from human to human until Zhong Nanshan with the National Health Commission announced human-to-human transmission on Jan. 20," The Hill reported.

Obviously, China had to have known well before this that human-to-human transmission was every bit possible.

China didn't take action when they should have and if they would've, the spread of the virus wouldn't have been nearly what it is. It wasn't contained when it should have been in the place it originated.

"The Wuhan government insisted on proceeding with a lunar year banquet on Jan. 18, where 40,000 families gathered to share home-cooked food. Other official new year celebration events didn't end until the city closed down on Jan. 23," according to The Hill.

Like I said, most states in the U.S. are doing exactly what they should be doing. Putting the whole country on lockdown wouldn't be ideal or completely necessary while there are still some areas that remain pretty much virus free.

We should still be focusing on trying to get the virus eliminated as much as we can, yet we can't place all of the blame from the virus spreading so rapidly throughout the U.S. on Trump.

Trump acted pretty fast and got a lot of backlash from the country when he originally put travel restrictions on going to and from China.

"Moving to counter the spreading coronavirus outbreak, the Trump administration said Friday (Jan. 31)," according to the New York Times, "that it would bar entry by most foreign nationals who had recently visited China and put some American travelers under a quarantine as it declared a rare public health emergency."

It obviously didn't take long for Trump to act, which is why I think everyone needs to cut him some slack.

by Ryan Stewart, Co-editor in Chief

NO

It's pretty obvious that if we want to stop the spread of COVID-19, we have to do something. We can't simply go on getting haircuts and eating in restaurants. But our current attempts at sheltering in place are not enough.

The virus isn't simply going to burn itself out. We have to find a cure. But with the most generous predictions slating the vaccine a year out, the goal should be mitigation. Now before conclusions of a police-enforced state spring to mind, let's just skip that fool's conversation and move on to an actual proposal.

Now why would I bring that up in the first place? Because I'm going to propose we follow China's lead. And when you do that, the anti-commies get just a little bit more than fired up.

But yes, China's extreme lockdowns have actually shown surprisingly positive results. Isolating severely infected areas by way of roadblock and restricted travel may sound somewhat dystopian in nature, but the truth of the matter is that these measures have undoubtedly saved thousands, if not, hundreds of thousands of lives.

In much the same way money compounds with interest, so too does a virus with infection. If you can effectively put a firewall in front of that growth, however, you can force the virus to run its course with the current infected. This would help quell the skyrocketing rates of infection.

> "IT STARTED TOO LATE."

The number of new infections in China has, thanks to their shutdowns, gone from thousands a day to tens a day according to a report published by Michael Osterholm, an infectious-disease scientist at the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis.

And for all the success the plan reaped, experts believed it had one major failing.

It started too late. And at this point, we are far past that point.

So yes, our current measures are a step in the right direction, but what we really need to do is limit all movement outside of one's home, and I mean you can only leave for literal life and death needs.

The travel restrictions need to follow this idea of shoring up, with a sort of country wide social distancing taking place in the form of, like China did in regards to Wuhan, completely shutting off outside contact with everything surrounding it.

For us, that would mean shutting down and containing New York, Detroit, Chicago, Florida, DC and other major cities and other hot spots for the virus.

In the long run, a tighter, efficient and decisive quarantine would be harsher emotionally for many people, but would help reduce the overall time spent in quarantine.

This would, in effect, get us out of quarantine as soon as is safe and get us back to normal life. I would much rather have a shorter time that's tougher than a longer, —and potentially much longer— easier quarantine.

The offical Chinese stance on stopping the spread of the virus is to always maintain social distancing and wearing masks as the most important things everyone can do.
photos courtesy of AP Images

DO WE KISS VACATIONS GOODBYE?

As social distancing orders are in place, even simple vacations can be out of reach.
photos courtesy of AP Images

by Katelyn Harris, Staff Writer

The coronavirus has taken away many things but one thing that has really stuck out to me is vacations.

Vacations are usually planned months, if not over a year, in advance, but the coronavirus is taking away many people's vacation scheduled for this summer.

While many other important things are being canceled such as the rest of the school year, graduation and more, the fact my vacation could be canceled is really depressing.

For many people that are graduating, this may be their last actual summer vacation they have. I know for one that my family planned a vacation for this year because I plan to take summer classes after this summer.

Some seniors also take a "senior trip" or a road trip after graduation, yet many probably will not be able to.

I'm sure I'm not the only one that if I would have known there was going to be a possibility that my summer would basically be canceled, I would have gone ahead and taken summer classes.

It's also hard because of all of the uncertainty. Could this also end up dissipating by the time my vacation is here? Is it too soon to cancel? I'm sure I'm not the only one who has endless questions about what we're supposed to do.

> "COULD THIS ALSO END UP DISSAPATING BY THE TIME MY VACATION IS HERE?"

For people who have vacations closer to the end of summer, I don't see a reason to cancel just yet unless the vacation involves traveling to another country. "For anyone who had plans to take summer trips abroad," Washington Post reported, "note that the U.S. Department of State is still advising Americans to avoid all international travel. It poses health and logistics risks to travelers."

Some vacations people take are also more of a distancing vacation such as a fishing trip or renting a house on a private beach.

I don't think these types of vacations should be canceled at all. Is there really a difference between staying at home and going to a lake house and fishing? As long as social distancing is taking place I don't see how there is much of a difference at all.

I just don't see how or why it would be necessary to cancel a vacation like that.

For instance, I'm still going on my fishing trip coming up here in June. My mom is a nurse and has been testing people for the coronavirus, and she thinks that it is still safe to go and finds no reason for us to not, considering we'll be social distancing while on the vacation.

Yet my vacation to Maine that we have scheduled in August is still up in the air. I'm sure I'm not the only one whose family doesn't want to for sure buy plane tickets because of the unsureness of whether we'll actually be able to go or not.

This summer hopefully won't have as many downfalls as I think there are going to be, but I guess that until we get further into May, the unsureness is going to stay.

STILL MUCH MORE TO DO BEFORE REOPENING

by Hannah Thompson, Staff Writer

There is absolutely no question that government relief efforts must not only continue but also amplify to help get the country and its individuals through this unprecedented and devastating time.

According to NPR, 26 million people lost their jobs in just five weeks of the COVID-19 crisis. At approximately 13 percent, the country's unemployment rate is estimated to be higher than any time since the Great Depression. The New York Times regarded the rate as "rising at a speed unmatched in American history."

Coronavirus restrictions have been particularly tough on small businesses across America. It was predicted that there could be over 15,000 permanent business closures in 2020 due as a result of the pandemic.

The government has recently stepped in to provide aid for those who are struggling most. On March 27, the Senate passed the CARES Act which issued an emergency relief package of $2 trillion (rationed among big corporations, small businesses, individuals, education, state and local government and public health) to help with the economic crisis.

While this relief effort is a good start, far more money will be required to assist the people and businesses that are struggling.

The bill allows individuals with incomes up to $75,000 to be eligible for a one time $1,200 tax rebate and an additional $500 per child. While this may help people get through approximately a month of payments, it is not nearly enough to get them through months of unemployment or limited paychecks they may be required to endure.

Not everyone is even eligible to receive this limited amount of aid. In order to receive the rebate, an individual must file a 2018 or 2019 tax return using Social Security Numbers for themselves and their dependent children. This would exclude individuals such as undocumented workers.

The bill also set aside $377 billion for small businesses and $500 billion for big corporations.

According to the Washington Post, members of the Independent Restaurant Coalition are frustrated by the CARES Act's limited aid for the 500,000 independently operated restaurants that employ 11 million Americans.

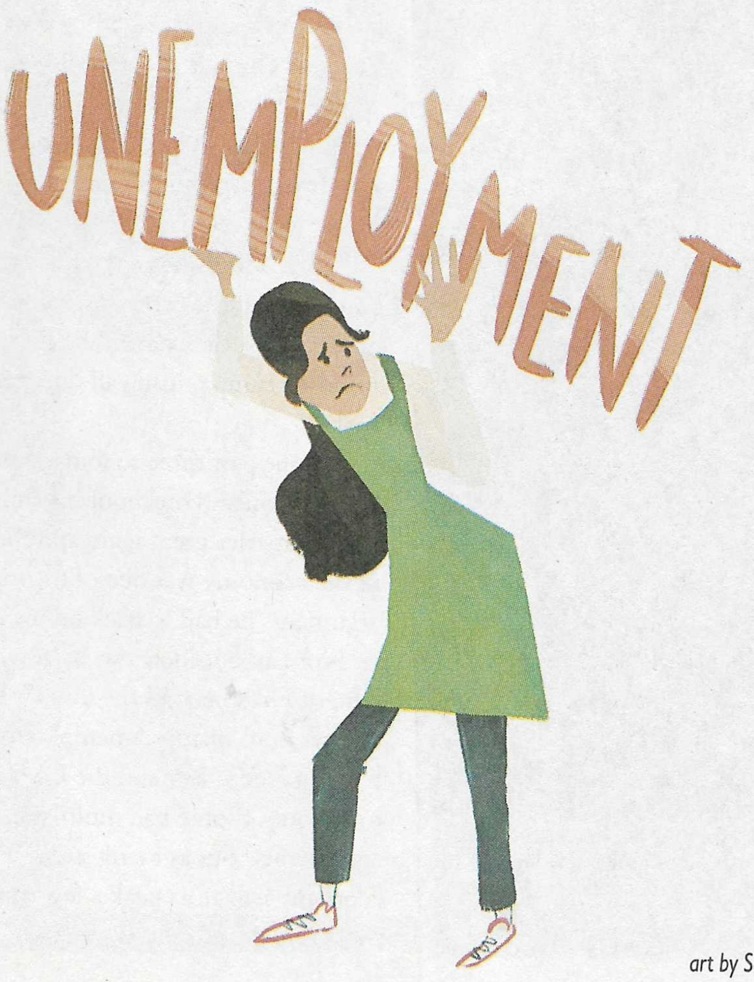
The Paycheck Protection Program (for small businesses) provides loans that are 2.5 times a company's 2019 average monthly payroll provided that 75 percent of it goes to maintaining employee paychecks. While this may be adequate for small businesses that are still fully operating, it is not adequate for restaurants that are receiving a fraction of or none of their pre-pandemic business according to the Washington Post.

Some people want to address the economic crisis by quickly reopening businesses. This is a shortsighted and naive point of view. The virus would most likely spread out of control again, and the fall out from that would be worse than any short-term economic gain.

The government also needs to improve its public health related relief efforts. We need a comprehensive testing strategy. How can we even think about returning to our normal lives without widespread access to the testing that is necessary to fully grasp the virus' reach?

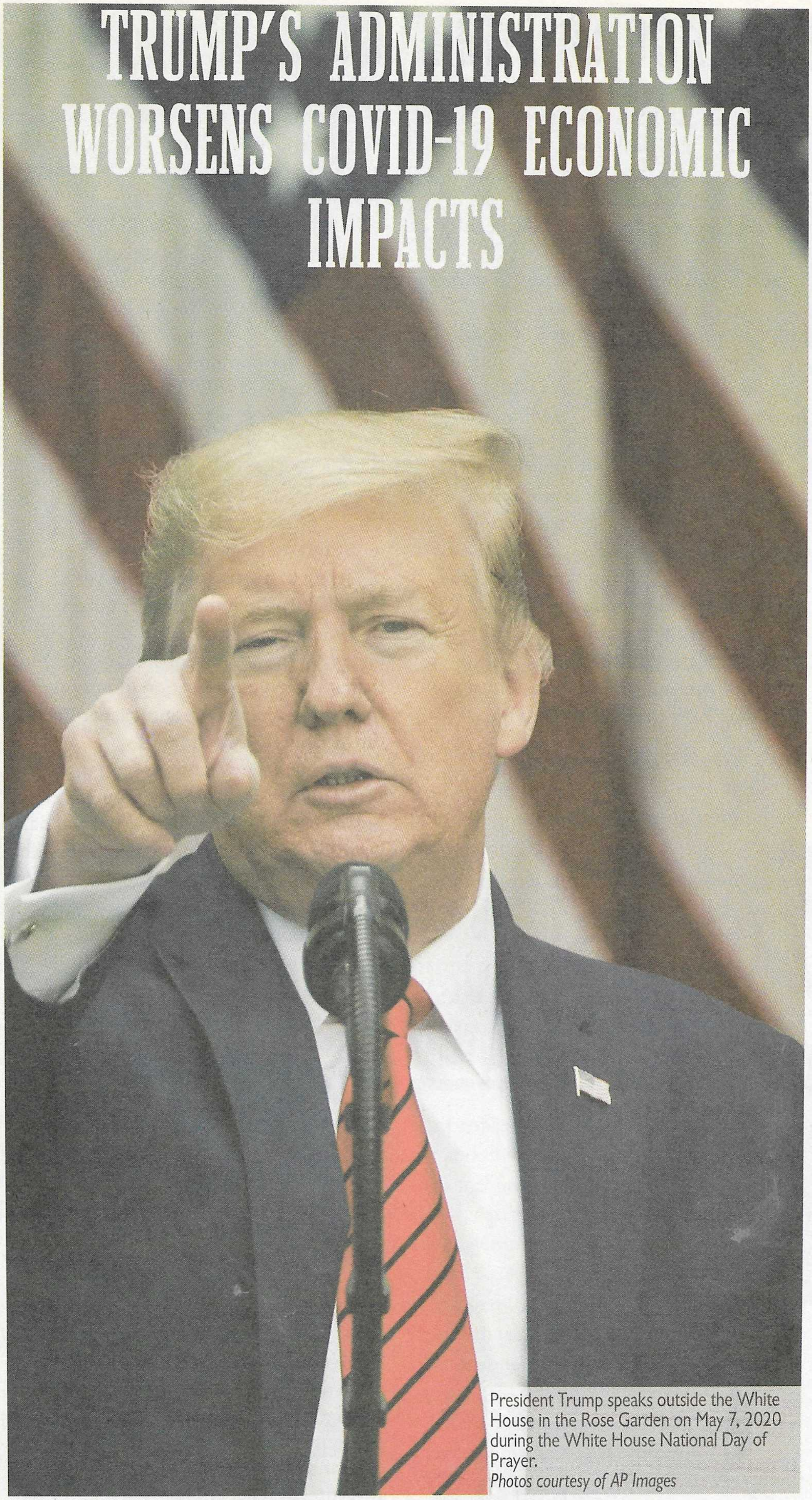
According to the New York Times, we need to triple the amount of daily testing in order to reopen the country. An average of 146,000 tests are conducted a day. Harvard University studies suggest that there needs to be a minimum of 500,000 to 700,000 tests performed each day to begin reopening.

Over the coming months, more and more money is going to be necessary to manage the devastating results of this pandemic. The lives and livelihoods of countless Americans are relying on government relief efforts.



art by Sarah Fidahussain

TRUMP'S ADMINISTRATION WORSENS COVID-19 ECONOMIC IMPACTS



President Trump speaks outside the White House in the Rose Garden on May 7, 2020 during the White House National Day of Prayer.
Photos courtesy of AP Images

by Jack Pifer, Views Editor

Nobody could have truly predicted the effects of this pandemic on the United States and economies around the world. What is unfortunate is that the impact of this pandemic was worsened by inadequate preparation and a slow response to the danger at hand.

A travel ban from Wuhan was announced in late January, but it took until Mid March until a European travel ban was instituted (after the US had 1000+ cases) and longer still until more restrictions were put in place. Too long.

With very limited testing then and now, there were clearly more cases than what we could see. Within days of restricting travel further, the 1,000 cases turned into 10,000 and continued to multiply.

Dismissing the virus early on was a crucial mistake, and now we are paying for other people's negligence.

If you want to make the argument that a delayed travel ban isn't entirely the fault of Trump and the rest of the government, I can get behind it. There were many factors of uncertainty that played into a delayed decision, namely misinformation and lack of testing, two things that should have raised more red flags.

What does annoy me is the lack of care put into the economy before the coronavirus was even a thought in our minds: Trump putting all the eggs in one basket.

For the past three to four years, Trump has gone on and on about his ability to make America great again and the state of the economy was one of the main arguments he had to back up his claims.

From an outside view, he was correct. America had been in the longest bull market in its history, unemployment was at a record low and the US was able to get out of some bad multilateral trade agreements. But as many strengths as the economy had at its peak a few months back, it had one crucial weakness; Trump was maximizing returns through his policies.

While that may sound like a good thing, maximizing returns allows economic problems to have a much bigger impact.

If you were investing, you would not put all of your savings in the market. It is a risky game. The same goes for running a country. When you don't have anything left in reserve for when things go south you are out of luck.

Unfortunately for America, Trump isn't very prudent when it comes to money. Instead of raising taxes, he kept them low during the longest bull market in history. Now the necessary stimulus spending by the government requires significant help from the Federal Reserve.

Typically in times of continuous growth, governments will raise taxes and decrease spending, sacrificing a small bit of growth and expansion for extra safety for when an economic downturn comes. When you have all gas and no brakes, however, you leave the entire economy in shambles when the downturn does come.

While raising taxes and reducing spending in a prosperous time would not have been fully able to prevent economic bailout, it would have softened the blow and left less reliance on future taxes and economic growth.

I can't expect Trump to take all the blame for America's COVID-19 fallout, but had he taken a more responsible approach with his policies by thinking ahead, I'm sure that we could help many more Americans during these tough times.

Sorry WE'RE CLOSED
TEMPERARILY CLOSED FOR COVID-19 STATE MANDATED LOCKDOWN

A pedestrian walks past a store in Michigan that is closed due to the economic fall out of the covid-19 pandemic.
Photos courtesy of AP Images

ASK AJC

FROM THE WRITERS

JACQUELINE GLENN

JOURNALISM BECAME A HUGE PART OF MY LIFE LAST YEAR, AND I DID NOT WANT TO LET IT GO. THIS CLASS HAS NOT ONLY HELPED ME FIND MY VOICE AS A WRITER, BUT IT HAS DEVELOPED MY ABILITY TO RESEARCH, ANALYZE, AND COLLABORATE WITH OTHERS.

RYAN STEWART

I STARTED JOURNALISM MY SOPHOMORE YEAR IN J1, AND OVER THE THREE YEARS I'VE SPENT DOING IT I'VE ALWAYS COME BACK FOR A FEW SIMPLE REASONS. MRS. THRUN'S TEACHING, MY INCESSANT NEED TO ALWAYS BE WRITING AND THE GREAT FRIENDS I'VE MADE EVERY YEAR.

CASSI REAKA

I DECIDED TO TAKE AJC BECAUSE, AFTER TAKING J1, I REALIZED I REALLY ENJOYED THE JOURNALISTIC STYLE OF WRITING. I ALSO REALLY LIKE THE FACT THAT WE WRITE FOR THE PURPOSE OF BEING PUBLISHED AND NOT JUST FOR A GRADE.

HANNAH THOMPSON

I HAVE BEEN ON THE YEARBOOK STAFF FOR THE PAST FEW YEARS AND HAVE ALWAYS LOVED WRITING. SO WITH SOME ENCOURAGEMENT FROM MY PEERS, I DECIDED TO TRY IT OUT. I'M REALLY GLAD I DID BECAUSE I AM NOW THINKING ABOUT PURSUING IT IN COLLEGE.

?

KATELYN HARRIS

I JOINED AJC BECAUSE J1 MADE ME FIND A LOVE FOR JOURNALISM I DIDN'T KNOW I HAD. I ALSO JOINED BECAUSE I MET GREAT PEOPLE IN J1 WHO INFLUENCED ME TO JOIN AJC. MRS. THRUN IS AN AMAZING TEACHER AND I WANTED TO HAVE ANOTHER YEAR WITH HER.

TAYLOR MEEK

I JOINED AJC BECAUSE I REALLY ENJOYED HAVING MRS. THRUN AS A TEACHER MY SOPHOMORE YEAR, AND I WANTED TO EXPERIENCE HER TEACHING STYLE AGAIN. I ALSO THOUGHT THE CLASS WOULD GIVE ME MORE EXPOSURE TO A POSSIBLE CAREER CHOICE.

JACK PIFER

I WANTED TO JOIN AJC BECAUSE I HAD MRS. THRUN FOR LITERATURE MY SOPHOMORE YEAR AND ENJOYED HER AS A TEACHER. I WASN'T REALLY SURE IF I COULD TAKE THE CLASS BECAUSE I HAD NEVER DONE JOURNALISM. I WAS LUCKY SHE GAVE ME THE OPPORTUNITY.

EMILY KLOOSTRA

I FOUND OUT ABOUT AJC THROUGH YEARBOOK. I HAD BEEN ON STAFF FOR THREE YEARS AND LOVED WORKING WITH MRS. THRUN, AND I KNEW HAVING A CLASS WITH HER WOULD BE A BLAST. I ALSO THOUGHT I WOULD ENJOY THE JOURNALISTIC STYLE OF WRITING.

WHY DID YOU JOIN AJC?